

DRAFT RFP - RTAPS Website Questions

1.) General Comment: The contractor is concerned that a purely IDIQ / Task Order approach does not have a “base” on which to build the IDIQ / Task Order. The scope of this effort would include participation by the contractor’s Program Manager in capability and status meetings and the business management and legal support required to administer the contract. The contractor would bill for this “base” on a monthly basis. The RFP does not appear to permit this approach. Can the contractor propose a small “base” program plus IDIQ / Task Order within the existing RFP language or does the language require clarification and/or modification?

**A: See Clause H.17 entitled ‘Proposal preparation costs for task order proposals and administrative costs’. There are no resources for an administrative task.
Please note: This clause is being revised in the final RFP.**

2.) Section G.6 – NASA Contractor Financial Management Reports Supplemental Requirements (Jun 2008): - Are financial tracking and progress reports, i.e., NASA form 533 (M or Q) required for fixed price and cost share task orders?

A: NASA Form 533M is required for all cost reimbursement (Cost plus fixed fee, Cost plus incentive fee, Cost Sharing) tasks only. 533’s are not applicable to Fixed Price task orders.

3.) Section I 95 - 52.243-6 – Change Order Accounting (Apr 1984): Please delete this clause. The contractor’s accounting system is not structured to automatically initiate a record of changes on a change-by-change basis. Such records are expensive to establish and maintain and are not needed for internal control purposes. Due to the additional costs associated with change order accounting, it is not recommended for the RTAPS Program.

A: Will be deleted in Final RFP.

4.) Section I.103 – 52.246-7 Inspection of Research and Development-Fixed Price (Aug 1996): In Section L.26, it is stated the intention of the solicitation is to obtain the work described herein by means of a Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) contract. It is requested that this clause be replaced with FAR 52.246-5 Inspection of Services-Cost Reimbursement (Apr 1984).

A: Clause 52.246-7 is applicable to contracts using fixed price task orders. FAR clause 52.246-5 is for service contracts.

5.) Section L.17 (d): Please clarify whether the Administrative Contracting Officer and the Contract Auditor referenced in this sub-section refers to the contractor’s resident Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) and Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA).

A: Deleted from L.17.

6.) Section L.20 – 1852.245-80 (a) (b) Government Property Management Information (Deviation) (Sep 1997): The contractor has a Government approved property system. Please clarify whether this condition will satisfy subsections (a) and (b) of this clause. The remaining subsections of the clause can be satisfied by either providing the noted listing or statement of non-applicability.

A: The facts provided in your questions will not satisfy subsections (a) and (b) of this clause. The provision requires you to address and provide all elements (a)-(g) with your offer. Your response will not be part of your page count.

7.) Section L, Subfactor 2 Management Plan and Approach (MP), MP3 Property Management: The contractor has a Government approved property system and FAR Clause 52.245-1 has been imposed. Please clarify whether documentation to this effect will satisfy the requirement. The information could be included in Cost Volume Part 1, Section 6 – Systems Reviews and Status Information.

A: Documentation of a Government approved property system will not satisfy the requirement. MP3 requires you to address:

-Your property system and/or procedure for receipt, identification, control, transfer, tracking, disposition, and reporting of Government-furnished property

-Your property system and/or procedures for receipt, identification, control, and tracking, transfer, disposition, and reporting of Contractor-acquired property purchased for the account of the Government.

-Describe how your business, property management and configuration management systems are functionally integrated.

8.) Section L, Attachment L-4, Subfactor 3, Small Business Utilization: Since Small Business (SB) and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) goals are based on dollar values, and only one sample task is being priced, then only one task will generate information on SB and SDB goals. How will you be evaluating the SB and SDB approaches within each 'un-priced' sample task? Should this be added as a 'section' within the sample task approach outline?

A: Offerors are to address Subfactor 3, Small Business Utilization for each technology area they propose. If one technology area is proposed, the goals for that technology area need to be addressed based on the maximum value (estimated funding) for that technology

area. If more than one technology area is proposed, the offeror should address the “contract level goals” based on the total of the contract maximum value (estimated funding) for the technology areas proposed . See chart below:

	Technology Area				Contract level goals
	1	2	3	4	
Anticipated estimated funding, \$M	125	12	4.5	50	
Small businesses (SB)	10%	10%	5%	12%	10.40%
Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns (SDB) (includes SDBs in represented and under-represented areas ^a)	3%	3%	1%	3%	2.95%
Women-Owned Small Business Concerns (WOSB)	3%	3%	0.5%	3%	2.94%
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)	---	---	1%	1%	0.28%
HUBZone Small Business Concerns (HBZ)	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	1%	0.63%
Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns (VOSB)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns (SDVOSB)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

^aAlthough 15 U.S.C. 637(d) requires subcontracting plans to contain information about SDB concerns, case law prevents the Government from giving evaluation credit to business types based on race or ethnicity unless those businesses are in under-represented industries. The Section M evaluation for SDB participation ensures that the Government only evaluates participation of SDBs in industries that are designated by the Department of Commerce as underrepresented. For purposes of the Small Business Subcontracting Plan, the proposed subcontracting goal for SDBs will be evaluated based upon the SDB’s status as a small business.

9.) In Attachment L-4, Sample Task 2: Nitrogen Regulator Design and Development, there is insufficient information to produce a conceptual design and development program plan with the technical information provided. As a minimum, flow rate and expected inlet temperature ranges and control accuracy need to be provided.

A. Will Address in revised Sample Task in final RFP

10.) Section L.26, Volume II Preparation of Cost Proposal: Please clarify if audits are performed whether the auditors (i.e., DCAA) will audit the contractor’s pricing reports or the NASA-defined EPM and OPM reports

A. NASA OPM reports.

11.) Section L.26, Cost Volume Part 4 Contractor Basis of Estimate: The contractor is not sure of the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS). At what level of the WBS will the Contractor Basis of Estimates be required?

A: Level One (1).

12.) If government resources (personnel, computing resources, codes, existing hardware, facilities, etc.) are identified for use in the sample tasks (Attachments L) or as part of the Technology Area scope of work (Section C), will Government Task Agreements (GTA) be required to document the commitment?

A: Rough Order of Magnitude, Engineering Estimates or estimates based on similar or substantially similar work are acceptable and anticipated as the method of estimating these costs for the sample tasks.

What level of commitment needs to be documented?

A: Minimum acceptable documentation would be a record of verbal discussions with the government source or basis of estimate from a previous similar type effort.

Where in the document should these documents be placed?

A: The document should be placed in the Cost Volume, Section 2.

Finally, if GTA's are required, will government contacts be made available to coordinate these requests?

A: Offerors are to contact the NASA facility manager directly for the cost and availability of the specific facility. Facility managers are identified for NASA centers at <http://www.nasa.gov/about/sites/index.html> - Type in 'facility managers' in each center's transporter.

13.) Will the competitive task order requests for proposal be of similar breadth and depth as the evaluation criteria (Section M) and proposal preparation instructions (Section L) as this IDIQ proposal?

A: The competitive task order process will be streamlined as much as possible. In selecting the awardee with whom to place orders under competitive task orders, the CO will consider the following criteria, and award will be made to the Contractor who the Government determines will provide the best value:

(a) technical understanding of the requirement based on proposal response to the order

(b) reasonableness of the proposed cost based on comparison to a Government estimate or to other contractor's proposed cost

(c) past performance on prior orders issued under this contract

(d) the extent and quality of participation of the small business, small disadvantage businesses and Women owned businesses

(e) additional factors, which the Contracting Officer would specify in the request for a Task Plan

14). Will subcontracting and partnering on future tasks be constrained by pre disclosure in current RFP response

A. See Industry Day Questions & Answers

15). Wouldn't 1 sample task be enough to evaluate ability rather than 4?

A: In determining the appropriate number of sample tasks, the Government considered the breadth of the Technology Areas and decided that the scope of work requires multiple sample tasks.

16). Will a prime be allowed to identify new suppliers in future task orders?

A: Yes, additional suppliers can be added later.

17). What is monetary criteria for letter of intent?

A: There is no monetary criteria for letter of intent. A letter of intent is required for those subcontractors that you deem as "critical". RFP to be changed to reflect this.

18). What format is required for subcontractor past performance?

A: No specific format, only information required in section L.27 of the RFP. Page count changed to 25 pages.

19). How are data rights to be asserted in the sample task order? **A: Data rights should not be asserted in the sample task orders as they are not intended to be "actual tasks".**

How can we include NASA personnel and/or facilities as part of the sample task order?

Estimates for the cost of Government Task Agreements (GTA) or Space Act Agreements should be received from the appropriate NASA facility. Government provided property or personnel will be offered for the sample task orders at no cost.

20). How can industry obtain RTAPS relevant government technology roadmaps and rationale in developing these roadmaps?

A: See the NASA Aeronautics Mission Directorate, NASA Science Mission and the Exploration Mission website.

<http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov>

<http://nasascience.nasa.gov/>

<http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/home/index.html>

21). Is the 300-word Executive Technical Summary to be submitted as a separate document and on a CD of its own as implicated on pp 118-119 of the RFP, or is it to be included as Section 6 of Volume I as indicated in the table on p 113? If included, does it still require a separate CD?

A: The hard copy of the Executive Technical Summary should be included in Volume I as indicated in the table under L.15. A separate CD for the Executive Technical Summary should be included in Volume V.

22). Is it permissible to place the files for all of the volumes on one CD (original) with one backup CD, or is an original and backup CD required for each volume?

A: An original and backup CD is required for each volume.

23) Are the due dates the same for e-transmission as well as CDs?

A: Yes. The due dates are the same for e-transmission as well as CD's.

24). What mechanism / approach will be used to compete the Task Orders (TO) among the short list of primes under IDIQ? If available the description should provide an appreciation for the effort required by the Prime to bid the TO.

A: The competitive task order proposals will be streamlined as much as possible. In selecting the awardee with whom to place orders under competitive task orders, the CO will consider the following criteria, and award will be made to the Contractor who the Government determines will provide the best value:

(a) technical understanding of the requirement based on proposal response to the order

(b) reasonableness of the proposed cost based on comparison to a Government estimate or to other contractor's proposed cost

(c) past performance on prior orders issued under this contract

(d) the extent and quality of participation of the small business, small disadvantage businesses and Women owned businesses

(e) additional factors, which the Contracting Officer would specify in the request for a Task Plan

25) Comment: Please provide insights in RTAPS technical requirements by making available the NASA Technology Investment Roadmap(s) for the topics under Tech Area 4. -

A: For RTAPS background information for Technology Area 4, See the NASA Science Mission website and the Exploration Mission website.

<http://nasascience.nasa.gov/>

<http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/home/index.html>

Due to potential changes in future direction please refer to the NASA website:

26) Is it possible to secure a significant amount of the anticipated future funding by combining the competition for the IDIQ instrument with the first set of actual TO's?

A. The sample tasks are for proposal evaluation purposes only.

27). Sample Task 2 GN2 regulator GN2 flowrates are required to be able to begin this task, can they be provided Testing to validate performance requirements sometimes requires special test equipment or facilities. An example is a very high vibration spectrum may require one of a kind test facilities. Testing discussed is not quantified with requirements, such as vibration PSD, leakage, flow and these may have significant impacts on the program plan/.costing if not defined. Can these requirements be provided to ensure an accurate estimate is provided? What other program constraints can be provided to allow a complete evaluation of the costs required to be developed for the sample tasks? These would include overall function of regulator in a system using pressurant storage tanks for valve actuation or use of a pressurant for a propulsion propellant tank Need to know 2 key parameters: flow rate/ESEO and internal leakage. If these are \"typical\" please state.

A: Will Address in revised Sample Task in final RFP.

28). Sample task 1 LO2/GCH4 What are the system requirements / constraints for initial trade studies to establish injector requirements? For example do what are the tank pressures we can assume for the design. Do we have an envelope to trade nozzle AR and chamber length to overall performance as specified in the sample tasks. We need to know Pc and chamber operational inlet temperatures to establish the design basis for evaluating different geometries for a swirl coax We assume several patterns means to be up to 3 different geometries / patterns Mitigation of full scale engine risks will require full scale mfg of the hardware Is the time of the period of performance 1-5 years or 1.5 years (18 months)

A: Will Address in revised Sample Task in final RFP.

29). Are the bidders required to name all subcontractors, that could potentially be used on the individual task orders, in the IDIQ proposal? This would be difficult when there are unknown tasks to be worked over a 5 year period. Could the RFP permit subcontractors to be added as tasks are defined?

A:No. Bidders are required to name those subcontractors deemed “critical” as defined by the bidder. Yes, subcontractors could be added as actual tasks are defined.

30). Please post the Industry Day attendance information, per the discussion during industry day. Thanks!

A: Industry Day attendance posted to RTAPS website.

31). MSM Group Inc. would like to be added to the Vendors Expressing Interest list
www.msmsgroupinc.com Kevin McQuade 216.408.0464 kmcquade@msmsgroupinc.com Status
VOSB

A: Company added to Vendor Expressing Interest list.

32). Is it possible for one company with multiple divisions/business unit to have more than one prime contract?

A: Yes.

33). Will the fee structure be the same for all tasks, decided by the IDIQ contract, or will a contractor be required to negotiate fee for each task?

A: After award of the IDIQ contract, the fee structure for the actual tasks will be proposed by the Contractor based on the complexity of the competed task when issued.

34). Regarding the "Anticipated Maximum Contract Value" shown on page 27 of the Industry Day presentation, and on page 123 of the draft RFP as "Anticipated estimated funding" and as "IDIQ MAXIMUM ORDERING VALUE".

Assume a company wins Technology Area 2, with an anticipated maximum contract value of \$12M.

An interpretation is: This is the contract maximum or ceiling, NASA can not award task orders exceeding this value (for Tech Area 2) over the life of the IDIQ contract (60 months). It is possible that a company could be awarded the maximum \$12M, even though there will be multiple Tech Area 2 contracts awarded. And it is possible that multiple Tech Area 2 contract award winners could each be awarded the maximum \$12M over the life of the IDIQ contract.

A: Both of your assumptions are correct. The maximum potential contract value would be \$12M. If multiple contractors are awarded contracts in that area, all contracts would have a potential contract value of \$12M.

35) Several comments were provided to the Statement of Work and suggested additional wording.

A: NASA Glenn is considering these comments and the final Statement of Work will incorporate the comments, if any.

36) Comment related to Clause G.6 NASA CONTRACTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS-SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JUN 2008) delete the following paragraph:

(d) IF THE VALUE OF THIS CONTRACT (including options, whether exercised or unexercised) EXCEEDS \$1 MILLION, and the Contractor is submitting reports that provide both actual expenditures from past months and estimated expenditures for current/future months, THEN the Contractor shall provide a short explanation (approximately one sentence) of any variance that exceeds +/- 5 percent, between a previous estimated month-specific expenditure and the actual expenditure experienced. [Example: The March 533M states that Actuals for March were \$80K and Planned expenditures for April are \$100K. The April 533M states that Actuals for April were \$92K, which is a variance of 8 percent (from the "March Planned" number of \$100K). A short explanation—"widget prices were unusually low"—is required.]

A: This requirement cannot be deleted.

37) Comment: Clause 1852.209-71 LIMITATION OF FUTURE CONTRACTING (DEC 1988) can be deleted

A: Yes, this clause to be deleted in final RFP.

38) Comment to clause H. 11 TASK ORDER SOLICITATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES, date change in section (F)(2) and (G) to **30 days**.

A: No, will not change. The requirements in the clause will remain.

39) Comment to clause H.12 TASK ORDERING PROCEDURE (1852.216-80), date change in section C to **30 days**.

A: No, will not change. The requirements in the clause will remain.

40) Comment to clause H.23 MIXED FUNDING DATA RIGHTS, change purpose rights period in section (b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(ii) to **15 years**.

A: The Government has considered the recommendation and determined that the period of 5 years in the clause will remain.

41) Comment: Remove clause 18 52.211-11 Liquidated Damages—Supplies, Services, or Research and Development (Sept 2000) .

A: Fixed Priced task orders are contemplated, so this clause is required per the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

42) Comment: remove clause I.27 52.215-17 WAIVER OF FACILITIES CAPITAL COST OF MONEY (OCT 1997)

A: Clause needs to be included because offeror may not propose Facilities capital cost of money.

43) Comment: Add Alternate IV to clause 52.215-21 REQUIREMENTS FOR COST OR PRICING DATA OR INFORMATION OTHER THAN COST OR PRICING DATA - MODIFICATIONS (OCT 1997)

A: Alternate IV will not be included.

44) Comment to clause 52.243-7 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES, change date in section (b) to **30 days**.

A: No, will not change. The requirements in the clause will remain.

45) Comment: Remove clause 52.227-23 RIGHTS TO PROPOSAL DATA (Technical).

A: Per the Federal Acquisition Regulation, this clause cannot be deleted.

46) Comment to Section M, Subfactor 3—Small Business Utilization (SU): Change the language to the following (proposed change underlined):

All Offerors, except small businesses, must complete the portion of the instructions under Small Business Subcontracting specific to the Small Business Subcontracting Plan. Small businesses are not required to submit Small Business Subcontracting Plans; however, small businesses are required to indicate the amount of effort proposed to be done by a small business either at the prime level or at the first-tier subcontract level.

All Offerors are required to respond to the Commitment to the Small Business Program addressing the Small Business goals for each Technology Area(s) proposed.

A: The Government will change the language to the following (proposed change underlined):

All Offerors, except small businesses, must complete the portion of the instructions under Small Business Subcontracting specific to the Small Business Subcontracting Plan. Small businesses are not required to submit Small Business Subcontracting Plans; however, small businesses are required to indicate the amount of effort proposed to be done by a small business either at the prime level or at the first-tier subcontract level.

All Offerors are required to respond to the Commitment to the Small Business Program for each Technology Area(s) proposed.

47) Comment to Section M, Subfactor 3—Small Business Utilization (SU): Change anticipated estimated funding values for technology areas 2 and 3 in part (a)(1)(ii).

A: The Government will not change these values.